

Solid Waste Funding Workgroup February 17, 2012, Meeting Notes

The meeting was held from 9:00 a.m. to Noon in the Con Con Conference Room, Atrium South, Constitution Hall, Lansing, Michigan.

The workgroup was welcomed. The members introduced themselves and identified which organization they are representing.

Jason Geer	Michigan Chamber of Commerce
Sandy Rosen	Michigan Recycling Coalition
Michael Csapo	RRRASOC representing waste authorities
Bill Lobenherz	Michigan Soft Drink Association representing the Michigan Recycling Partnership
Gary Dawson	Consumers Energy Company representing Type III landfill interests
Patty O'Donnell	Northwest Michigan Council of Governments representing the Michigan Association of Regions (Phone)
Steve Essling	Representing Michigan Waste Industries Association (For Tonia Olson)
Roger Simon	Louis Padnos Iron & Metal Company representing Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries
Randall Slikkers	Goodwill Association of America representing reuse stores
Doug Wood	Kent County Department of Public Works representing Waste to Energy facilities and County Public Works Departments
Jim Sygo	Department of Environmental Quality, Executive Division
Liz Browne	Department of Environmental Quality, Resource Management Division
Steve Sliver	Department of Environmental Quality, Resource Management Division
Matt Flechter	Department of Environmental Quality, Resource Management Division
Also invited but unable to be present were...	
Tom Frazier	Michigan Townships Association
Roger Simon	Louis Padnos Iron & Metal Company representing Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries
Geoffrey Donaldson	St. Clair County representing Michigan Association of Counties
William Hinz	Allegan County Health Department representing Health Departments (MALPH)
Andy Such	Michigan Manufacturers Association representing MMA
James Clift	Michigan Environmental Council
Jason Mancini	Michigan Municipal League representing MML

The notes for the January 27, 2012, meeting were distributed. If there are not any changes or revisions **the DRAFT label will be removed from the notes when they are placed on the Web located at http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,4561,7-135-3312_4123-261534--,00.html.**

The Michigan Waste Industries representative gave their view on the inspection sub-committee work thus far. He said that a primary reason for keeping the inspections as a core responsibility of the DEQ was to ensure inspections of facilities remain consistent among districts.

The concept of variable fees for inspections was raised again. Workgroup members supported the concept of increased fees for follow-up inspections that are not routine.

A brief discussion was held on the package of bills that will reduce inspections if facilities have successful previous inspections. It was recognized that the solid waste inspection frequency is not mandated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

A workgroup member mentioned a potential lawsuit by certain organizations suing EPA for not fulfilling solid waste planning obligations.

The floor was given to the Goodwill representative to describe a proposal to reduce their solid waste disposal expenses (handout). Goodwill is being encouraged to look at the surcharge as a source of funds and presented the concept to the SWFW to place it on the table for discussion. In general, the SWFW was supportive of the concept but recognized that others have similar expenses and would like access to the funds generated as well.

Solid Waste Surcharge discussion – there was agreement that the short-term solution to addressing funding for the Solid Waste Management Program should be focused on the current method of funding, the solid waste surcharge, and a longer term solution should be supported. The longer term solution should be based upon the “Sustainability Fee” concept.

A two-step process was supported by the SWFW where the surcharge will be increased and expanded to other activities (e-waste, compost, materials recovery facilities) and the fee will transition into a transaction fee as soon as support is received and the voters enact it through a statewide ballot initiative.

The SWFW was reminded that the current 12 cent/cubic yard surcharge sunsets September 30, 2013. An extension, increase, and expansion of the solid waste surcharge will likely need to go through 2018 to provide enough time to implement a new, sustainable funding mechanism.

The SWFW **asked DEQ to DRAFT a proposal for review and discussion at the next meeting** that funds the Solid Waste Program with a modified solid waste surcharge for the near term.

Regarding the “Sustainability Fee”, The **SWFW requested that Jamie Clover Adams, the DEQ Legislative Director, be invited to a SWFW meeting** to discuss the feasibility of funding recycling and the Solid Waste Program with a transaction fee.

Next Meeting is March 9, 2012, 9:00 a.m. to Noon, Con Con A & B Conference Room, Atrium South, Constitution Hall, Lansing, Michigan.